



• INFO memo - July 25, 2003

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West Nile Virus Alert Issued in State

Although no cases have been reported in humans, the Oklahoma State Department of Health states that six dead birds have been found which tested positive for the disease during the past two weeks. None were in Tulsa or Wagoner counties.

West Nile is a virus transmitted by mosquitoes, which are infected when they feed on birds carrying the disease. If infected dead birds are found in an area, the chances increase for mosquitoes to carry the disease to horses and even humans. The infected dead birds were found in Beaver, Cleveland, Jackson, Muskogee and Oklahoma counties (blue jays) and a crow in Carter Country.

The hotter, drier weeks of late summer are more apt to increase the threat, as the type of mosquito which usually carries the virus thrives in this environment. They breed in small areas of stagnant water, such as a water dish for pets, an old tire, child swimming pool, etc.

A representative of the Tulsa City-County Health Department emphasized that if area residents find a dead crow, blue jay, cardinal, hawk, owl or other larger bird, they should call the Dead Bird Hotline at 595-4344. That call will provide detailed information on what to do so that the bird may be tested for the virus.

Residents are urged to handle the dead birds only with gloves or some kind of protection on their hands. Double bag the bird and place it in a cool place, particularly if it's found on the weekend when Health Department workers are not available.

Do not call City of Broken Arrow police, fire, parks department or public works employees. The pickups and testing are done through the Health Department.

Complete information on the virus and protective measures can be found on the Tulsa City-County Health Department's web site (www.tulsa-health.org/env) with a link to a West Nile Virus fact sheet that may be printed out.

The City of Broken Arrow continues to conduct thorough spraying for mosquitoes throughout the city. But residents are asked to help by keeping grass mowed, weeds cut and standing water eliminated. Those with unusually high numbers of mosquitoes in their neighborhood should call the City's Action Center at 258-3587.

Sales Tax Check Increases Slightly

Thanks to increases of nearly \$200,000 from general merchandise stores and stores selling hardware, building materials, etc., the sales tax check for the City of Broken Arrow in July was slightly larger than that for the same month a year ago.

The overall increase in the voucher was \$45,605 (\$1,824,362, compared to \$1,778,099 in 2002). But 14 of the 22 major categories listed in the report came in under the previous year's collections. The biggest gain came in general merchandise stores with \$482,934 (an increase of \$105,155).

In statistics released by the Oklahoma Tax Commission, Broken Arrow residents paid an average of \$289.14 (per capita) in the past fiscal year. That's up less than \$7 from the previous year.

Broken Arrow still ranks lower than any of the area cities near its size in annual per capita (at a 1.00 percentage rate) with \$92.16 per person. Tulsa, which captures millions of Broken Arrow shopping dollars each year, has a figure of \$150.32, while Muskogee is first at \$177.43. Bartlesville is at \$126.62 and Edmond and Norman at \$130.67 and \$120.41, respectively.

Traffic Collisions Decreasing

After a slight increase in the number of traffic collisions during the month of April, Broken Arrow streets have been considerably safer the past two months.

According to statistics provided by Tim Hirsch of the Broken Arrow Police Department, there were 112 traffic collisions worked by officers here in June. That's down from 143 in June of 2002 and the lowest figure for that month since 1998. There were 125 collisions in May, down from 163 in 2002.

In April there were 141 collisions, up one from the same month the year before. In the first six months of 2003 there has been a decline in the number of collisions in all but that one month.

There were 1,802 crashes for the entire calendar year of 2000, but the numbers have dwindled since: 1,785 in 2001 and 1,724 last year. So far this year there have been only 700.

Youth Sports Teams Coming and Going

The first youth baseball tournament wrapped up last weekend, a major national girls fastpitch softball tournament is winding down, with a title game set for this

weekend, and the next round of baseball world series tournaments are waiting to start next week.

It's just another routine summer for Broken Arrow!

The USSSA World Series concluded last weekend at Indian Springs Sports Complex. Some of the top 12-under girls fastpitch softball teams have been competing all week for the national American Fastpitch Association title. They've been playing at the Arrowhead Park softball complex on Washington, just east of Main.

Then as that meet is winding down, the Continental Amateur Baseball Association world series tournaments for five age groups will get started at Indian Springs and at the fields at Rhema Bible Church.

The Broken Arrow Girls Softball League has hosted the AFA tournament. And the Broken Arrow Youth Baseball Association has hosted the USSSA meet and now the CABA tournaments. Teams from all over the United States and beyond will be on hand for the CABA competition.

National Night Out Against Crime Set Aug. 5

Broken Arrow's Police Department is helping organize some "going away" parties for crime and drugs in the community. This will be the fifth straight year that the city has participated in the National Night Out Against Crime, which this summer will be held Aug. 5.

Residents are urged to get out and meet their neighbors, turn outside lights on and even bring in some guests from the police and fire departments. Lisa Ford, Crime Prevention Specialist with the BAPD, explains that neighborhoods having parties can have a police officer or fire truck visit on Aug. 5 by calling 451-8213 (police) or 259-8355 (fire). Ford can even help set up some games, coloring contests, etc.

On Halloween (Oct. 31) the BAPD will join with Main Street Merchants to stage a Fun Night in downtown.